(a) whether it is fact that a joint statement have been signed regarding development of computing platform adaptable to local infrastructure condition between the chip maker Intel and Government recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the statement;

(c) whether it was in the interest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Intel has signed a joint statement with Ministry of Communications and IT which focuses on reaching benefits of IT to the masses with the aim to design an appropriate Computing Platform for use in community kiosks based on cost effective wireless communication technologies. It outlines collaboration in the broad areas of Reaching IT to the Masses; Enabling Technology Competitiveness and Education.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The partnership is aimed at enabling citizens in villages and rural areas to avail benefits of information revolution, enhance IT literacy and PC proliferation, widening Government services reach and delivery and narrowing the digital divide.

Telecom Policy

1140. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Telecom Policy has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) It is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

Setting up of Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell

†1141. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to set up the centres for Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell all over the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such centres;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for setting up of these centres; and

(d) by when all the centres for Vigilance Monitoring Cell would be opened all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells are already operational at four places i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. These Cells have been set up using the existing infrastructure and staff. The operational expenditure per VTM Cell is approximately Rs. 22 lacs per annum at present opening of additional VTM Cells is contingent upon the experience of the existing VTM Cells.

Expansion plan of mobile service in Chhattisgarh

†1142. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL mobile connections in Chhattisgarh as on 30th June, 2005;

(b) whether this mobile service has been introduced in all the districts and tehsil-headquarters of Chhattisgarh;

(c) the expansion plan of this mobile service in Chhattisgarh;

(d) whether mobile connection of BSNL is available on demand in Chhattisgarh; and

(e) if not, by when such situation would prevail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of mobile connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 30.06.2005 are 83028 lines.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided Cellular Mobile Services covering all the 16 District Headquarters and 41 Tehsil Headquarters (out of 97) of Chhattisgarh.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.